

**Amendments to the Specification:**

On page 6, lines 27-31, please replace the paragraph beginning “FIG. 1 is a schematic of HIV-1 gp41” with the following paragraph:

FIG. 1 is a schematic of HIV-1 gp41 showing the heptad repeat region 1 (HR1; SEQ ID NO:1) and heptad repeat 2 region (HR2; SEQ ID NO:50) along with other functional regions of gp41. Exemplary amino acid sequences corresponding to HIV<sub>IIIB</sub> HR1 and HR2 are shown for purposes of illustration. The amino acid residues are numbered according to their position in gp160, strain HIV<sub>IIIB</sub>.

Beginning on page 6 at lines 32 and continuing to page 7, line 1, please replace the paragraph beginning “FIG. 2 shows a comparison” with the following paragraph:

FIG. 2 shows a comparison of the sequences (SEQ ID NOS:2, 51-84) contained within the HR1 region of HIV-1gp41 for purposes of illustration, and not limitation, as determined from various laboratory strains and clinical isolates, wherein illustrated are some of the variations in amino acid sequence as indicated by the single letter amino acid code.

On Page 7, lines 8-10, please replace the paragraph beginning “FIG. 5 is a graph showing use of a synthetic peptide” with the following paragraph:

FIG. 5 is a graph showing use of a synthetic peptide provided with the present invention and ~~an HR2 peptide~~ HR2 peptides (including SEQ ID NO:33 and SEQ ID NO:49) as may be used in a method for producing a molecule that can inhibit binding between HR1 sequences and HR2 sequences.